

On Saturday August 14th, 2004, TF 1-77 Commander LTC David Hubner along with representatives and officials from the city of Balad opened the Al Zahara Water Storage unit outside Balad, Iraq. The ground storage unit, the first of its kind in the area, replaced an old and non-functional standing unit at a cost of \$82,000. The new project will provide 500,000 liters of potable water storage and effect over 9,000 residents of the Al Zahara Quarter in the City of Balad.

The event attended by local citizens, city council members and many of the 70 workers employed by the project marked another successful civil military operation facilitated by Task Force 1-77 in partnership with the city of Balad. The project began two months ago with a plan from the Balad Water Department to improve services in the area. Once approved by the city council, TF 1-77 assisted with funding and work began. The project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and has set the standard for water distribution in the area.

LTC David Hubner, Commander of Task Force 1-77, opened the facility with these remarks, "This project is a great example of the local government setting priorities that improve the living conditions for the citizens of Balad, living conditions that were sorely neglected under the former regime. Anytime we can help make life better for the good citizens of Balad we are glad to help." "Any day we can open a project like this that directly effects these people is a great day, a day we all remember," stated Task Force S5 CPT Jason Goodfriend. Balad Water Director Gassid Hadi, the architect of the Balad Water Renovation program stated, "Task Force 1-77 has been so important in working with the city council and my office is supporting us and our plan. We have done so much together to help the people of the area."

Task Force 1-77 continues to assist the people and government of Balad and the surrounding area with civil projects ranging from water and electricity infrastructure to school and healthcare support. The task force is committed to a self sufficient and functional Balad and continues to assist the local government in a any way possible.



Picture Captions:

Task Force Commander LTC Hubner and Balad City Council President Malik turn the value to begin water flow into the new water storage unit



Assistant S5 2LT Rafters with local area children who will benefit from the project